



March 31, 2011

Christy Clark, Premier of British Columbia

Re: The International Year of the Forests and the Great Bear Rainforest

Dear Premier Clark,

From Peru, Indonesia and the Democratic Republic of Congo, we are writing you because, as we are fighting to protect our own tropical rain forests, we urge you to take the necessary steps to protect the Great Bear Rainforest in British Columbia announced two years ago on March 31, 2009.

The efforts of the international community to protect the world's forests for climate and species are focusing on tropical rainforests, but the protection of forests in the Northern Hemisphere is at least as important. Protection of the temperate rainforest of British Columbia and in particular, the Great Bear Rainforest, can serve as a model for all of us.

The United Nations has declared 2011 the International Year of the Forests. Globally, more than a billion people depend on forests for their livelihoods. Forests provide essential habitat to most species on the planet. The world's forests and forest soil store more than one trillion tons of carbon – twice the amount found in the atmosphere.

The story of how the Province of British Columbia, indigenous peoples, environmental organizations and the logging industry came together after years of conflict and developed a model to achieve environmental protection and well-being of local inhabitants inspires people around the world. The world is waiting for solutions of this kind that are addressing conservation, aboriginal land rights and economic activities that respect the limits of nature.

The planet is warming rapidly and greenhouse gas emissions still increase. Quickly reducing emissions both from burning fossil fuels and from deforestation and degradation is now of crucial importance to avert the risk of passing dangerous tipping points that would result in forests die-off and even higher emissions.

Our organizations are working to protect tropical rainforests in our countries to prevent such a scenario. We encourage you to do your part and hope that you will achieve success in the Great Bear Rainforest as soon as possible.

Sincerely

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cc. SierraClub BC, Greenpeace, ForestEthics